

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 /085 W
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P 121707Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2139

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: (A) MADRID 3963; (B) MADRID 4014

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON JUNE 12 ON MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR FILALI, HE TOLD ME THAT MOROCCO HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE SPANISH PROPOSAL FOR A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF SPANISH SAHARA. THE MOROCCANS HAVE TOLD THE SPANISH THAT THEY ARE AGREEABLE TO THIS CONFERENCE IF THIS WOULD HELP THE SPANISH, BUT FIRST MOROCCO MUST KNOW WHAT THE AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE AND WHAT SPAIN EXPECTS WOULD BE THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE. FILALI IMPLIED THAT IF THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE WERE TO BE A FORM OF ALGERIAN VETO ON MOROCCAN INCORPORATION OF THE SAHARA, THIS THEN WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY. FILALI REHEARSED AT SOME LENGTH THE DANGERS WHICH WOULD OCCUR FOR SPAIN, MOROCCO AND OTHERS IF THE ALGERIAN-SPONSORED F. POLISARIO SHOULD GAIN CONTROL OF AN INDEPENDENT SAHARA.

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2. FILALI MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WITH

DOING BUSINESS WITH THE GOS AT THE PRESENT TIME WAS THE IMPETUOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE GOS ADOPTED ITS POSITIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THT IT WAS ONLY LAST FRIDAY, JUNE 6, WHEN THE SPANISH HAD SENT A NOTE TO MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA CONVOKING A FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IN MADRID ON JUNE 9 (PARA 1, REF (A)). IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE PREPARED OVER A WEEKEND. (COMMENT: IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THE SPANISH WERE TRYING TO MAKE A RECORD WITH RESPECT TO A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO UN SYG WALDHEIM'S VISIT.)

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING THE CAPTURE OF MOROCCAN SOLDIERS BY SPANISH ARMY IN THE SAHARA, FILALI NOTED THAT THOSE CAPTURED WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOS WAS MAKING A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY THIS EPISODE IN ORDER NOT TO CREATE FURTHER TENSIONS.

4. FINALLY, FILALI ACKNOWLEDGED THT HE HAD NO DOUBTS THAT IF IT WERE NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A FOUR-POWER MEETING EITHER DIRECTLY OR UNDER US AUSPICES, THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT GOS WAS CAPABLE OF SUDDENLY PULLING UP STAKES IN THE SAHARA AND GETTING OUT, EVEN IF THIS MEANT THE LOSS OF SPANISH PHOSPHATE INTERESTS IN THE SAHARA.

5. LATER TODAY, AT LUNCH, ROVIRA TOLD ME THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM HAD TOLD GOS JUNE 11 THAT KING HASSAN HAD BEEN NEGATIVE ABOUT A FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE. ROVIRA SAID THAT AMBASSADOR FILALI HAD APPOINTMENT WITH CORTINA IN EARLY AFTERNOON JUNE 12 AND THIS MIGHT CLARIFY MOROCCAN POSITION. ROVIRA INDICATED THAT GOS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GIVE GOM ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO WHAT OUTCOME OF FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE MIGHT BE.
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